

**Robert Stewart to George Washington, January 18, 1763, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT STEWART.**

NEW YORK Janry. 18th. 1763

MY DEAR COLO

Two Days ago I arrived here, after a tedious Journey render'd doubly disagreeable by the excessive badness of the Roads & the extreme rigour of the weather, I was detain'd three Days at the River Susquhanna, which was fill'd with such quantitys of driving Ice, as to make it impracticable for Boats, it at length shut up, and I at some risque cross'd upon the Ice. —

On my arrival at this place, I immediately waited upon Genl Monckton, who I found the same warm Friend I left him, he prevented my application, by enquiring what my Plan was, regretted my being so long unprovided for, and in the genteelest manner offer'd his best offices in promoting the Success of whatever I might deem the most eligible, I therefore without reserve communicated my Intentions to him, which he approv'd off, and instantly applied in person to Sir Jeffery for his leave, for my going to London, where I shall carry G. Ms. warmest Recommendations: my Plan is, to propose to the Ministry (amongst whom I hope to find 2 good friends in Lord Bute and Mr. Charles Townsend) to raise in America at my own Expence a Battalion of 5 Compys. on condition of being made Major Commandant & having the appointment of the Officers which of late have been the common Terms, and however aspiring this may appear, yet I am assur'd by the most knowing here that

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the great demand for Men (for all thoughts of a Peace seems now to have vanish'd) the insuperable difficulties of getting them at home, the powerful Recommendations I shall carry with me, my Rank in the best of Provincial Corps, long Services &ca. so well attested and strongly enforc'd, will more than probably secure the Success of my Plan — You'll by this Time pronounce me too sanguine, But allow me my dear Sir to assure you that Series of Disappointments sometimes when my hopes were rais'd to the highest pinnacle by the most flattering Prospect of Success have convinc'd me beyond any possibility of doubt how incompatial with reason & repugnant to common Prudence it would be to place my happiness on any unattain'd terrestrial Blessing however alluring & near it may appear, yet as this yields a good probability I am willing to essay one vigorous Effort, and if I should not arrive at the summit of my views I may perhaps reach a Compy. at the worst I can get a Purchass there with more facility than here; I am therefore getting in readiness to embark with the next Packet which will ('tis imagin'd Sail in about ten days) — I hope I need not tell you how happy you will make me by charging me with the execution of any thing you may have to do in London: I have tolerable knowledge of most things you can want from thence, and I am certain that none can take greater care in executing them well, as the immense pleasure of obeying the Commands of the Person I so highly revere, will infinit'ly more than compensate for any pains it's possible to be taken Your Letters will find me by the underneath Direction — I beg my warmest Complmts. & most hble Respects to Your Lady and Family, Could my most ardent Wishes or anything else within the utmost limit of my ability avail, nothing should be wanting to completion of your Joint Felicity, which will always promote mine God Bless You My dear Colonel & believe me ever to be with the most exalted Regard

Your Most Affecte. & Most Obligated hble Servt. ROBERT STEWART Please Direct for me To the Care of Messrs. Levern & Stuart at the Corner of Eagle Street In great Jermyne Street London

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Nothing new or entertaining here, I will do myself the great pleasure to write you again before I embark —